

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable reconsideration of this Application, as presently amended and in light of the following discussion, is respectfully requested.

This Amendment is in response to the Office Action mailed on October 26, 2004. Claims 28-32, 34-37, 40-46, 48, and 49 are pending in the Application; Claims 26, 27, 29-32, 34-36, 38-41, 43-46, and 48-53 stand rejected; and Claims 33, 37, 42, and 47 stand objected to as being dependent upon rejected base claims, but would be allowed if rewritten in independent form. The indication of allowable subject matter is noted with appreciation. Claims 29, 30, 31, 40, 42, and 45 are amended and Claims 26, 27, 33, 38, 39, 47, and 50-53 are cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer by the present Amendment.

In view of the allowable subject matter, Claims 29 and 30 were amended to depend from allowed Claim 28. Claim 31 was amended to incorporate the allowable subject matter of Claim 33. Claims 40 and 45 were amended to incorporate the allowable subject matter of Claims 42 and 47, respectively. Applicants note that Claim 37, being an independent claim, should have been identified as allowed rather than allowable.

Summarizing the outstanding Office Action, Claims 26, 27, 29, 30, and 50 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph for being indefinite. The Amendment filed on August 11, 2004 was objected under 35 U.S.C. § 132 for introducing the subject matter “the central portion of said cover has a height equivalent to the thickness of the case.” Claims 26 and 29 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Kownacki (U.S. Patent No. 5,238,107, hereinafter “Kownacki”). Claim 27 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by or, in the alternative, under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as obvious over Kownacki. Claims 38-39 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Nakasuji (U.S. Patent No. 5,896,985, hereinafter “Nakasuji”) and by Taniyama (U.S. Patent No. 5,515,968, hereinafter “Taniyama”). Claim 51 was rejected under 35 U.S.C.

§ 102(b) as being anticipated by Japanese Laid Open Patent Publication '610 (Japanese Publication 8-90610, hereinafter "Japanese Publication '610"). Claims 26, 27, and 29 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Japanese Patent 9-226869 in view of Kownacki. Claims 27, 31, 32, 40, 41, 44, 45, 46, and 48 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over the references applied above, further in view of Official Notice or Japanese Publication '610 or Clemens (U.S. Patent No. 4,903,829, hereinafter "Clemens"). Claims 30, 35, and 49 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over the references applied above with respect to Claims 26, 31, or 41, further in view of Nakasuji or Fraser et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,788,068, hereinafter "Fraser"). Claim 34 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over the references applied above with respect to Claim 31, further in view of Grobecker (U.S. Patent No. 4,805,770, hereinafter "Grobecker"). Claim 36 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over the references applied above with respect to Claim 31, further in view of Japanese Publication '610. Claims 27, 31, 32, 40, 41, 44, 45, 46, and 48 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kownacki in view of Official Notice or Japanese Publication '610 or Clemens. Claims 30, 35 and 49 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over the references applied above with respect to Claims 26, 31, and 41, further in view of Nakasuji or Fraser. Claim 34 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over the references applied above with respect to Claim 31, further in view of Grobecker. Claim 36 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over the references applied above with respect to Claim 31, further in view of Japanese Publication '610. Claims 31, 32, 34, 35, 40, 41, 43, 44, 45, 46, 48, and 49 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Taniyama in view of Japanese Patent 9-226869 (hereinafter "Japanese Patent '869") or Kownacki and/or Japanese Publication '610 or Clemens. Claims 50-51 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being

unpatentable over Japanese Patent '869 or Kownacki in view of Japanese Publication '610. Claims 50-51 and 53 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Taniyama in view of Japanese Publication '610. Claim 52 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over the references applied above with respect to Claim 51, further in view of Official Notice or Japanese Publication '610 or Clemens. Claim 53 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over the references applied above with respect to Claim 51, further in view of Nakasuji or Fraser. Claim 52 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over the references applied above with respect to Claim 51, further in view of Japanese Patent '869 or Kownacki and/or Japanese Publication '610 or Clemens.

As to the rejection of Claims 26, 27, 29, 30, and 50 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, in view of the cancellation of Claims 26 and 50, Applicants submit that these rejections are now moot. Their withdrawal is respectfully requested. It is believed that all pending claims are definite and no further rejection on that basis is anticipated. If, however, the Examiner disagrees, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned who will be happy to work with the Examiner in a joint effort to derive mutually acceptable language.

Claim 50 previously recited that "the central portion of said cover has a height equivalent to the thickness of the case." In view of the cancellation of Claim 50, Applicants respectfully submit that the outstanding objection under 35 U.S.C. § 132 for the introduction of the subject matter "the central portion of said cover has a height equivalent to the thickness of the case" is now moot. Reconsideration of that objection is respectfully requested.

The present amendment is submitted in accordance with the provisions of 37 C.F.R. § 1.116, which after a Final Rejection permits entry of amendments placing the

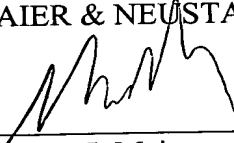
claims in condition for allowance.¹ As the present amendment is believed to overcome outstanding rejections and objections and the claims have been amended in view of the allowed and/or allowable subject matter, Applicants believe that the present amendment places the application in condition for allowance. It is therefore respectfully requested that 37 C.F.R. § 1.116 be liberally construed, and that the present amendment be entered.

Consequently, in view of the present amendment, no further issues are believed to be outstanding in the present application, and the present application is believed to be in condition for formal Allowance. A Notice of Allowance for Claims 28-32, 34-37, 40-46, 48, and 49 is earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner deem that any further action is necessary to place this application in even better form for allowance, the Examiner is encouraged to contact Applicants' undersigned representatives at the below listed telephone number.

Respectfully submitted,

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¹ See, for example, MPEP §714.12.